

**THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.**

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the above-named Company, at which the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley presided, was held at the Royal Society of Medicine, No. 1, Wimpole Street, W., on the 20th of November, when the Resolutions passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company on November 4th, and printed in our issue of November 13th, page 271, were submitted for confirmation as Special Resolutions, and carried, the first being moved by Miss Biggar, seconded by Miss Pocock, and the second by Miss Crawford, seconded by Miss Bowdler.

The Chairman announced that the subscription for new members after November 20th would be 5s. per annum, in addition to the entrance fee of one guinea. The existing members would be asked to pay a voluntary contribution of 5s. annually, and forms would be sent to them on which they would be asked to state what they were prepared to do.

The *Bulletin* would be distributed quarterly to members free of charge. It was hoped to make it self-supporting from advertisements, but they had not arrived at that position at present. That was the whole of the formal business.

The Chairman then moved, and Miss Turnbull, R.R.C. (Edinburgh), seconded, a vote of thanks to the Royal Society of Medicine for the use of the room.

Replying to questions, the Chairman said the 5s. subscription would be applied to the business part of the College. It was quite distinct from the Club subscription, which presumably would be larger for London than for country members.

Miss Cox Davies said it was up to the London members to have such a club as they chose to pay for. They must not expect the College or anyone else to support it.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.**

The Chairman here announced the arrival of Miss Ford and Mr. Munro, of the Ministry of Labour, who had come to give those present what help they could to enable them to understand the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Miss Ford prefaced her remarks by saying that as they were not able to submit their answers to the Head of their Department, they must not be understood as having official sanction. The Unemployment Insurance Act came into force on November 8th, and was compulsory. It was intended to include all engaged under a contract of service or apprenticeship. All those engaged in manual labour (with certain important exceptions) were included, whatever the rate of their remuneration, and those engaged in non-manual labour, whose remuneration or its equivalent was less than £250 per annum. The chief exceptions were those engaged in domestic service, and agricultural labourers. The scheme applied substantially to all employed persons for whom contributions were payable under the National Health Insurance Acts. It was possible to claim exemption if a person

could prove that he possessed an income or pension of £26 a year, or was mainly dependent on others. Then the employer had to pay, but not the employed person. The contributions were paid to a Central Fund. In the case of women the contribution was 3½d. per week for the employer, 3d. for the employed person, and 1½d. was paid by the State. If out of employment, provided she fulfilled the conditions, a woman could claim 12s. a week, but could not draw this pay on the first three days of unemployment, or for more than 15 weeks in any one year.

A person who had made 500 contributions could, at the age of 60, have these refunded, plus 2½ per cent., less what he had received in benefits.

As regards nurses, their position was clear. Contributions were payable by all who paid into the National Insurance Fund. A question had been submitted to the Minister as to whether nurses could be regarded as in domestic service, and he had the question at present under consideration. The general rule was that a person came under the Act if employed under a contract of service unless he received over £250 a year.

Another possibility of exception for nurses was where their employment was under a local or other public authority and the Minister was satisfied that they would not be dismissed except for misconduct, or neglect of, or unfitness to perform, their duties.

The Chairman inquired about the position of nurses in hospitals, and Miss Ford said that their average rate of pay brought them under the Act.

In reply to a question, Mr. Munro said that in the normal way, if a nurse went to claim unemployment benefit, she might be asked if she could get a job. Supposing they could tell her of one up at Newcastle, she would not be required to take one far away immediately, but would be allowed to exhaust the possibilities of the locality first; but if after a little time there seemed not much chance of her finding one, if she wanted to benefit she might be required to go further afield.

Miss Cox Davies elicited that unemployed persons must register at an unemployment exchange, that such registration was absolutely compulsory, that you would not in private life pay out without proof, and unemployed persons would have to present themselves where they had registered each day.

Sir Arthur Stanley said there was no possibility of unemployment for hospital nurses, and the British Hospitals Association had approached the Minister in regard to exemption.

Mr. Munro said further that persons in receipt of a salary were not unemployed.

The Chairman then inquired about private nurses, and Miss Ford said that she believed the Health Insurance Commissioners were of opinion that if a nurse earned at the rate of 3½ guineas a week, that, with her emoluments, would make her income over £250 per annum.

A nurse present stated that she had always stamped her National Insurance card herself, and Mr. Munro said that was the first duty of her

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